

2. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 1, wherein said determining means comprise at least one receiver [means for receiving] adapted to receive waves from a space above a seat portion of the seat and a processor [means] coupled to said at least one receiver [means] for generating a signal representative of the position of the at least a part of the occupant based on the waves received by said at least one receiver [means].

3. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 2, wherein said at least one receiver [means comprise] is an ultrasonic transducer.

4. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 2, wherein said at least one receiver [means comprise at least one receiver] is capable of receiving electromagnetic waves.

5. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 2, wherein said determining means further comprise a transmitter [means for transmitting] adapted to transmit waves into the space above the seat portion of the seat, said at least one receiver [means] being arranged to receive the waves transmitted by said transmitter [means].

6. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 5, wherein said at least one receiver [means] is structured and arranged to convert received waves into electrical signals.

7. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 2, wherein said at least one receiver [means are] is mounted in a door of the vehicle.

8. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 2, wherein said at least one receiver [means are] is mounted [in a door of the vehicle] on or adjacent to the airbag module.

9. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 1, wherein said control [means control] circuit controls deployment of the side airbag by suppressing deployment of the side airbag, controlling [the] a time at which deployment of the side airbag starts, controlling [the] a rate of gas flow into the side airbag, controlling [the] a rate of gas flow out of the side airbag or controlling [the] a rate of deployment of the side airbag.

10. (Amended) An arrangement for controlling deployment of a side airbag from an airbag module to protect an occupant in a seat of a vehicle in a crash, comprising determining means for determining whether an occupant is present in the seat, and a control [means] circuit coupled to said determining means for controlling deployment of the side airbag based on whether an occupant is present in the seat.

11. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 10, wherein said determining means comprise at least one receiver [means for receiving] adapted to receive waves from a space above a seat portion of the seat and a processor [means] coupled to said at least one receiver [means] for generating a signal representative of the presence or absence of an occupant in the seat based on the waves received by said at least one receiver [means].

12. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 11, wherein said at least one receiver [means comprise] is an ultrasonic transducer.

13. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 11, wherein said at least one receiver [means comprise at least one receiver] is capable of receiving electromagnetic waves.

14. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 11, wherein said determining means further comprise a transmitter [means for transmitting] adapted to transmit waves into the space above the seat portion of the seat, said at least one receiver [means] being arranged to receive the waves transmitted by said transmitter [means].

15. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 14, wherein said at least one receiver [means] is structured and arranged to convert received waves into electrical signals.

16. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 11, wherein said at least one receiver [means are] is mounted in a door of the vehicle.

17. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 11, wherein said at least one receiver [means are] is mounted [in a door of the vehicle] on or adjacent to the airbag module.

18. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 10, wherein said control [means] circuit is structured and arranged to suppress deployment of the side airbag if an occupant is not present.

19. (Amended) The arrangement of claim 10, wherein said determining means determine [the] a position of at least a part of the occupant when an occupant is in the seat and

said control [means are] circuit is structured and arranged to control deployment of the side airbag based on the determined position of at least a part of the occupant.

27. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of controlling deployment of the side airbag comprises at least one of the steps of suppressing deployment of the side airbag, controlling [the] a time at which deployment of the side airbag starts, controlling [the] a rate of gas flow into the side airbag, controlling [the] a rate of gas flow out of the side airbag and controlling [the] a rate of deployment of the side airbag.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of controlling deployment of the side airbag comprises at least one of the steps of suppressing deployment of the side airbag, controlling [the] a time at which deployment of the side airbag starts, controlling [the] a rate of gas flow into the side airbag, controlling [the] a rate of gas flow out of the side airbag and controlling [the] a rate of deployment of the side airbag.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:  
determining [the] a position of at least a part of the occupant when an occupant is in the seat, and  
controlling deployment of the side airbag based on the determined position of at least a part of the occupant.

Please add the following new claims.

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37. A vehicle including the arrangement of claim 1, the vehicle having a side door, at least a portion of the arrangement residing on the side door of the vehicle.

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38. A vehicle including the arrangement of claim 10, the vehicle having a side door, at least a portion of the arrangement residing on the side door of the vehicle.

39. A vehicle including a side door and an arrangement for controlling deployment of a side airbag from an airbag module to protect an occupant in a seat of a vehicle in a crash, the arrangement comprising

at least two cooperating components arranged to provide a signal indicative of the position of at least a part of the occupant, and

a control circuit coupled to said components for controlling deployment of the side airbag based on the position of the at least a part of the occupant,

at least a portion of the arrangement residing on the side door of the vehicle.

40. A vehicle including a side door and an arrangement for controlling deployment of a side airbag from an airbag module to protect an occupant in a seat of a vehicle in a crash, the arrangement comprising

at least two cooperating components arranged to provide a signal indicative of the presence of the occupant in the seat, and

a control circuit coupled to said components for controlling deployment of the side airbag based on whether an occupant is present in the seat,

at least a portion of the arrangement residing on the side door of the vehicle.